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EDITOR **GEORGE H. KRESS**
Associate Editor for California **EMMA W. POPE**
Associate Editor for Nevada **HORACE J. BROWN**

Advertising Representative for Northern California
L. J. FLYNN, 544 Market Street, San Francisco
Advertising Representative for Southern California
A. A. BUTTERWORTH, 223 E. Fourth Street, Los Angeles

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EDITORIALS*

"FINAL REPORT" OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE COSTS OF MEDICAL CARE†

The Final Report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care.—On May 17, 1927, the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care may be said to have gotten its real start. The committee of fifty, to carry through its five-year plan of fact-finding studies, has found it necessary to expend almost one million dollars, supplied largely by eight American foundations.

We quote from a letter of date of November 12, 1932, received by the editor of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE:

"In accordance with your recent telegraphic request, we are sending herewith an advance proof of the Final Report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care.

"We appreciate your willingness to keep the contents of the report confidential until November 30."

Because the December number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE will not be in the mails until after November 30, the following brief comments are printed. The final report of the Com-

* Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comments column, which follows.

† Publication 28: "The Final Report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care" may be purchased from The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois.

mittee on the Costs of Medical Care, for which an expectant medical profession has been patiently waiting for the last five years, at last is ready for publicity. The discussion thereon may last for years. Whether these fact-finding studies will bring about a radical change in medical practice is a question. Time will show.

The report of the committee was not unanimous. A minority report is signed by eight physicians. Four other members of the committee likewise sent in dissenting opinions.

The physicians and dentists who had membership in the committee included the following. (The names of those who signed the minority report are printed in italics):

Lewellys F. Barker, M. D., Baltimore, Maryland.
Walter P. Bowers, M. D., Clinton, Massachusetts.
A. C. Christie, M. D., Washington, D. C.
William Darrach, M. D., D. D. S., New York City.
George E. Follansbee, M. D., Cleveland, Ohio.
M. L. Harris, M. D., Chicago, Illinois.
J. Shelton Horsley, M. D., Richmond, Virginia.
Kirby S. Howlett, M. D., Franklin, Tennessee.
Arthur C. Morgan, M. D., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Herbert E. Phillips, D. D. S., Chicago, Illinois.
Stewart R. Roberts, M. D., Atlanta, Georgia.
C. E. Rudolph, D. D. S., Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Richard M. Smith, M. D., Boston, Massachusetts.
Walter R. Steiner, M. D., Hartford, Connecticut.
N. B. Van Etten, M. D., New York City.
Robert Wilson, M. D., Charleston, South Carolina.
Rollin T. Woodyatt, M. D., Chicago, Illinois.
Olin West, M. D., Chicago, Illinois.
Ray Lyman Wilbur, M. D., Palo Alto, California.

The minority report which was signed by Doctors A. C. Christie, George E. Follansbee, M. L. Harris, Kirby S. Howlett, A. C. Morgan, Olin West, Robert Wilson, and N. B. Van Etten includes the names of colleagues with long careers of service in county, state, and national medical associations. They are not only members of the medical profession who have had extensive experience in private practice, but they are at the same time medical men who, because of their interest, aptitude, and altruistic service for organized medicine and the public health, may be pointed to as experts on matters having to do with past, present, and future trends in medical practice. Their minority report should be gauged, therefore, not so much because it expresses the viewpoint of eight as against that of thirty-six, but as having special worth because it represents a vast background of practical experience and expert knowledge on the subjects discussed in the two reports.

* * *

Portions of the Final Report Here Considered. In these present comments on this report it is our purpose to submit excerpts as follows:

1. Some quotations from the "Introduction," which is written by our fellow Californian, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, chairman of the committee, who is of those in favor of the recommendations in the majority report; and who to a certain extent probably speaks on behalf of the majority.

2. The "recommendations" of the committee (that is, the digest of the "majority report") which